

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: EC/TURKEY: PREPARATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

REFS: (A) ANKARA 1198, (B) ANKARA 1152, (C) 75 EC BRUSSELS 8294

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AN EC COMMISSION SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE EC/TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2 WILL BE A DISASTER UNLESS BOTH PARTIES AGREE TO FOREGO THE TRADITIONAL ITEM BY ITEM AGENDA AND AGREE TO DISCUSS THE CONDITIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN GENERAL TERMS. HE SAYS THAT ONE OR MORE COMMUNITY MEMBER STATE HAS TOTALLY LOCKED POSITIVE ACTION ON EVERY FRONT ON WHICH THE TURKS ARE SEEKING EC COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CAPOALE IN EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS WORRIED THAT THE EC/TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2 COULD BE A DISASTER. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE AGENDA WAS STILL VERY MUCH UP IN THE AIR (PARA 9 REFTEL B). IF THE MEETING TAKES PLACE WITH WHAT HE REFERS TO AS A TRADITIONAL AGENDA COVERING

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THE FULL RANGE OF EC/TURKISH ISSUES SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL QUOTAS, THE TREATMENT OF TURKISH WORKERS

AND SOCIAL SECURITY, AND INDUSTRIAL TRADE,
PARTICULARLY TEXTILES AND, A FINANCIAL
PROTOCOL, HE BELIEVES DISASTER CANNOT BE AVOIDED.

3. IN RECENT BRUSSELS DISCUSSIONS OF THE MARCH 2
ASSOCIATION COUNCIL IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FOR ALL
PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE ABLE TO
OFFER THE TURKS VIRTUALLY NOTHING ON THE ITEMS OF
INTEREST TO THEM. CAPORALE DEPLORES THIS SITUATION
AND LAYS THE BLAME FIRMLY ON THE MEMBER STATES.
IN HIS VIEW THEY FAIL TO SEE THE POLITICAL NECESSITY
OF BALANCING THE RECENT MOVES ON THE GREEK APPLICA-
TION WITH SOME PARALLEL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE TURKS.
MOREOVER, HE SAYS THAT WHILE THEY BLOCK MEANINGFUL
PROGRESS THEY ARGUE THAT THEIR SKIRTS ARE CLEAN.
FOR EXAMPLE, WITH RESPECT TO CONCESSIONS ON TEXTILES,
EIGHT MEMBER STATES TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW. THE UK
IS WHOLLY NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, THEREFORE NO ACTION
IS POSSIBLE. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR AGRICULTURE
WHERE SEVERAL MEMBER STATES, FRANCE AND ITALY EX-
CLUDED, ARE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. GERMANY,
HE SAYS, STANDS ALONE IN DENYING MOVEMENT ON THE
WORKER AND SOCIAL SECURITY FRONT.

4. GIVEN THE ABOVE ROADBLOCKS CAPORALE BELIEVES
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO STRUCTURE THE ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL WITHOUT CAUSING REAL BITTERNESS FROM THE
TURKISH SIDE WOULD BE TO FOREGO THE TRADITIONAL
DETAILED AGENDA AND TABLE ONLY ONE MORE OR LESS
ANODYNE ITEM SUCH AS "THE CONDITION OF THE ASSO-
CIATION." IT WOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TURKISH
SIDE TO LIST ITS DESIDERATA AND ASK THAT THE COM-
MUNITY DO WHAT IT CAN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.
THE COMMUNITY COULD REPLY THAT IT UNDERSTOOD THE
TURKISH CONCERNS. UNDER THIS FRAMEWORK THERE COULD
HOPEFULLY BE AGREEMENT ON FUTURE COOPERATION, STUDY
GROUPS AND JOINT MEETINGS BUT IT WOULD NOT BE
NECESSARY FOR THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL TO REALLY COME
TO GRIPS WITH ANY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

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5. CAPORALE SAYS THE COMMITTEE OF ASSOCIATION
(WHICH CONSISTS OF BOTH TURKISH AND EC MEMBERS)
WILL MEET FEBRUARY 20 TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. ON A
PERSONAL BASIS HE HAS FLOATED HIS IDEA OF A ONE
LINE AGENDA WITH BOTH THE TURKS AND THE EC PRESI-
DENCY AND HE HOPES THAT THEY WILL SEE THE DANGERS
OF ANY OTHER APPROACH. HINTON

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